

Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

February 13, 2014

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State Legislators Recognize MoDOT's Snow Fighting Efforts

by Holly Dentner

Just one week before Governor Nixon thanked MoDOT workers for their efforts during this year's winter storms, the Missouri House of Representatives recognized MoDOT on the House floor on Jan. 27 to applaud our outstanding service to the state of Missouri.

Representative Jeff Roorda sponsored a resolution in appreciation for the work MoDOT crews do statewide to plow and treat state highways and to protect Missourians.



Left to right: Dave Silvester, Travis Koestner, Pedro Chaidez, Mike Belt, Kyle Fischer, Jim Williams, and Ed Hassinger at the Capitol after receiving the House proclamation. Photo by Shaun Schmitz.

Several Central District employees joined Chief Engineer Ed Hassinger to accept the resolution on behalf of the department, including Maintenance Superintendent Mike Belt, Maintenance Supervisor Jim Williams, Maintenance Supervisor Kyle Fischer, Assistant Maintenance Supervisor Pedro Chaidez, District Engineer Dave Silvester, and Assistant District Engineer Travis Koestner.

The Resolution, as presented, reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives hold in high esteem those Show-Me State government agencies that diligently work to ensure that state government provides its much-needed services and programs in the efficient, effective manner mandated by the public; and

WHEREAS, the Missouri Department of Transportation takes as its priority to make sure motorists get where they're going safely throughout the year; and

WHEREAS, when the January 5, 2014, winter storm dumped a significant amount of snow across much of the state and included strong winds and temperatures below zero, the Missouri Department of Transportation utilized 1,500 plow trucks and 3,500 employees to clear the highways; and

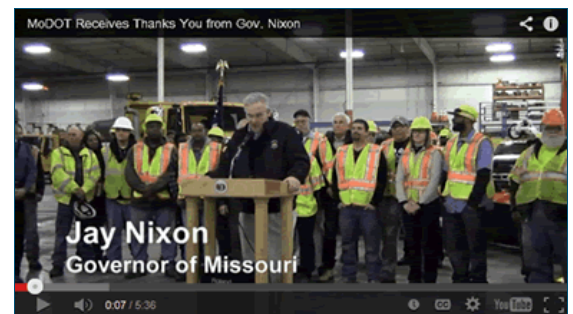
WHEREAS, when a major storm hits a significant portion of the state, the Missouri Department of Transportation supplements its 2,400 regular maintenance employees with 700 non-maintenance employees who are trained for winter operations and fills the remaining gap with seasonal and emergency operators; and

WHEREAS, in addition to a fleet of plow trucks, the Missouri Department of Transportation uses salt, salt brine, liquid calcium chloride, dry calcium chloride, beet juice, and abrasives such as sand, chips, and cinders in its battle against winter weather; and

WHEREAS, the Missouri Department of Transportation removes snow and ice from approximately 34,000 miles of highway in the state, which costs an average of \$42 million each year and takes approximately 560,000 hours of labor; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that the Missouri House of Representatives should pause in its diverse daily activities in order to acknowledge the dedication of Missouri Department of Transportation employees to the often dangerous and time consuming work necessary to keep Missouri highways safe in winter;

NOW, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-seventh General Assembly, join unanimously to applaud the history, goals, and accomplishments associated with the Missouri Department of Transportation and to convey to all of those involved this legislative body's most heartfelt commendation of their response to the winter storm of January 5, 2014.



Click above to watch a video of Governor Nixon thanking MoDOT, the Missouri State Highway Patrol and the National Weather Service for their efforts during the winter storms.

Commission Approves Long Range Transportation Plan

by Bob Brendel

The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission approved a new long range transportation plan on Tuesday but cautioned that without additional resources the Missouri Department of Transportation has very little chance of delivering it. That's because MoDOT revenues – largely tied to state and federal fuel taxes – are falling and MoDOT's available construction budget will soon be well below the \$485 million per year that is needed to keep the state system of roads and bridges in the condition they are in today.

The federally required plan is designed to guide transportation decision making. It was first presented to the commission in November and has been out for public review for the past three months. The plan – called “A Vision for Missouri’s Transportation Future” – was developed after an intense seven-month public engagement period that resulted in 12,000 project suggestions and operational priorities.

Based on the input received, four goal areas were established:

- Take care of the transportation system and services we enjoy today;
- Keep all travelers safe, no matter the mode of transportation;
- Invest in projects that spur economic growth and create jobs; and
- Give Missourians better transportation choices (more viable urban and rural transit, friendlier bike and pedestrian accommodations, improvements in rail, ports and airport operations).



“Over the past several months, the public told us we got it right,” MoDOT Director Dave Nichols said. “Eighty percent of the folks we heard from told us they agree with this vision of transportation in Missouri.”

The biggest change from the draft plan to that approved by the commission was a revised revenue forecast necessitated by uncertainty at the federal level. Previously it was forecast that distribution of federal funds would be flat going forward. Now, it’s more likely that Missouri will realize a 19 percent decrease in federal funds.

From 2005-2010, MoDOT’s annual construction budget was about \$1.3 billion. This year it’s \$685 million and by 2017 it will have fallen to \$325 million – lowest since 1992.

The reasons for the funding downturn are many. Fuel tax revenues have become a diminishing revenue stream as cars become more fuel efficient and as people drive less, while the costs of doing business are increasing. Inflation has decreased MoDOT’s purchasing power by more than 50 percent. What was 17 cents (state fuel tax per gallon) of purchasing power in 1992 – the last time fuel taxes were increased – is now about eight cents and decreasing each year.

The costs of asphalt, concrete and steel are as much as 200 percent more than they were in 1992. And employee healthcare and retirements costs have also steadily risen. The looming insolvency of the Federal Highway Trust Fund in August or September is a big reason, too.

The complete plan can be viewed at www.missourionthemove.org.

“Transportation is an issue that touches everyone,” Commission Chairman Joe Carmichael said. “Missourians have told us what they want, and it’s more than what they have today. But the reality is that we will not be able to afford it. We’ll continue to look to them for help in sharpening the vision for transportation in our state and finding ways to deal with our funding challenges.”

Consideration of Bids for Roadway Improvements

State Design Engineer Eric Schroeter reported that for the bid opening of January 24, MoDOT received 188 bids on 24 calls. The commission awarded contracts to the low bidder on all but two projects. Those two, in the Kansas City and Central Districts, were rejected due to excessive bids. Twelve projects included a blend of local funding totaling \$5.6 million.

Electronic Contract Execution for Highway Construction Projects

Bidding and Contract Services Engineer Natalie Roark gave a presentation on MoDOT’s electronic plans, bidding and contract processes. MoDOT first gave contractors the ability to receive plans and to submit bids via the internet in 2007. Now, MoDOT and contractors will also be able to execute contracts electronically. Roark said the advantages are a reduction in mailing costs, timelier contract execution and environmental responsibility. She told commissioners that 38 DOTs take electronic bids but MoDOT is the first to have a fully electronic bidding process that includes contract execution.

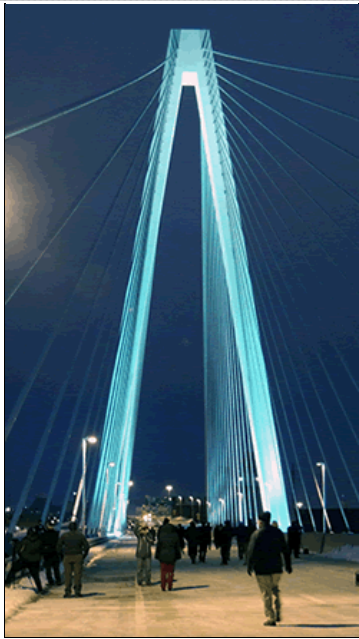
Consideration of Proposal for Medical and Life Insurance Plan Retiree Contribution Strategy

The Commission adopted recommended changes to employee medical benefits beginning in 2015. They believe these changes will help the department maintain the excellent health benefits it offers to employees. The Commission reviewed a summary of over 100 comments submitted by employees.

Commission Items – Vice Chairman Stephen Miller reported on transportation initiatives being considered at both the state and federal levels. Identical joint resolutions calling for a temporary 10-year one-cent sales tax for transportation purposes have been filed in the Missouri House and Senate by Representatives Dave Hinson and Dave Schatz and Senator Mike Kehoe. The House Transportation Committee held a hearing on HJR68 on February 4, with MoDOT Director Dave Nichols and 18 groups testifying in support of the proposal. Two groups were opposed, not to the need for additional transportation funding but because they don’t favor the sales tax as the mechanism to generate additional funding. In Washington, the current federal transportation bill – MAP-21 – expires in September. Miller said all indications are that it will be kept in force through a series of continuing resolutions until Congress’ “lame-duck” session following the 2016 presidential election.

Director’s Report – Dave Nichols reported on MoDOT’s snow fighting efforts this winter, and thanked Governor Jay Nixon for making two appearances last week in Springfield and Kansas City to salute the efforts of MoDOT and the Missouri State Highway Patrol in keeping Missourians safe and state’s roadways open for commerce. Nichols said a key to MoDOT’s success is the effective partnerships it has with the patrol, local law enforcement agencies and cities and counties.

Nichols also saluted MoDOT’s St. Louis District for successfully completing the new Stan Musial Veterans Memorial Bridge over the Mississippi River, ahead of schedule and under budget. He specifically thanked District Engineer Greg Horn, Project Director Randy Hitt, Project Manager Jim Middleton and Resident



Stan Musial Veterans Memorial Bridge. See more about the opening and ceremonies on the St. Louis District Page - St. Louis

Engineer John Grana for their leadership.

Finally Director Nichols congratulated Commissioner Gregg Smith for his confirmation last week by the Missouri Senate. Smith’s term will last until March 1, 2019.

Public Comments – Brent Hugh, executive director of the Missouri Bicycle and Pedestrian Federation, appeared in support of the newly adopted long range transportation plan. He displayed a chart that showed the growth of automobile transportation which has continued uninterrupted except for three times – during World War II, the gas crisis of the 1970s, and today. He said it was time that MoDOT develop a comprehensive statewide bike/ped plan. He also said that a poll of his membership showed that 70 percent are in favor of the proposed one-cent sales/use tax increase for transportation, 10 percent are opposed and 20 percent are undecided.

New Chair, Vice Chair for Highways and Transportation Commission

by Bob Brendel



MHTC Chairman Stephen Miller.

The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission’s leadership positions will change March 1. Stephen Miller, Kansas City, will serve as the commission’s chair for the next year, while Joe Carmichael, Springfield, will assume the position of vice-chair. Miller had been serving as vice-chair and Carmichael as chair. The commission voted to switch the roles, as is their common practice, at its meeting earlier this week.

Miller was appointed to the commission in August 2009. Carmichael has served on the commission since April 2009. “I’d like to thank Joe for the leadership he’s provided this past year,” Miller said. “He provided direction as three new members joined the commission and guided us through the difficult decision to not add new projects to the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program and to suspend the Cost-Share Program.”

“Steve and Joe have a keen understanding of the stark reality we face,” MoDOT Director Dave Nichols said. “I look forward to working with them as we tackle some big challenges, most notably how we are going to fund transportation at the state and federal levels for the long term.”



MHTC Vice-Chairman Joe Carmichael.

Miller is a partner in the Kansas City law firm Miller Schirger, LLC and focuses much of his practice on the construction industry. Carmichael is president and managing partner of the Springfield law firm Carmichael & Neal, P.C.

Other commission members are Kenneth Suelthaus, St. Louis and Gregg Smith, Clinton. There are two vacancies yet to be filled.

Be on the Patrol for Potholes!

by Linda Wilson-Horn

Believe it or not, the snow season will be ending, and potholes will be upon us. Typically March is the peak of pothole season, and therefore it is also the peak of customer complaints regarding potholes. To proactively address this, MoDOT will be focusing efforts in late February through March on filling potholes. We will promote ways for the public to help MoDOT identify where the potholes are located. With our limited resources, MoDOT’s efforts are focused on keeping our roads as smooth and safe as possible with our aging infrastructure.

To get a jump on this, we’re asking all MoDOT employees to proactively report any potholes they see to customer service. We drive the same roads as our customers. If we see one, it’s our responsibility to report it. Our maintenance crews fill potholes all the time, and they do a great job. With over 34,000 miles of state routes, they can’t possibly know where all of them are.

It is every MoDOT employee’s responsibility to aggressively address the pothole issue for public safety. Please help with our early pothole patrol in February and into March before we kick off our public campaign in mid-March.

This year we have modified our mobile version of our MoDOT website, so the report a road concern form is smart phone friendly. So use your phone as a way to submit potholes to customer service – just don't do it while you're driving!

We will kick off our public Pothole Patrol in mid-March, so over the next three weeks, keep your eyes open and report them when you see them.

Pothole locations can be reported in the following ways:

- Customer Service Center, available 24/7, at 1-888-ASK-MODOT (888-275-6636)
- Report a Road Concern on the web or on your smart device, <http://www.modot.org/asp/repair.htm>
- By email to comments@modot.mo.gov
- Through social media: MoDOT's Facebook page; MoDOT's Twitter



Medical Plan Changes for 2015

by Jeff Padgett



Earlier this week employees received an email from Director Nichols that the Commission has adopted the recommended changes to our medical benefits plan beginning Jan. 1, 2015.

Over the past few weeks we have gathered employee comments, over 100 of them, which were compiled by staff and reviewed by the Commission. We appreciate all of those comments. That feedback has been very valuable in developing our FAQ document on the website, which will help employees understand these changes - <http://www.modot.org/newsandinfo/Retireemedicalfunding.htm>.

No two employee's situations are alike; it is important that you know how these changes will affect you personally. Please take time to review the information on the website and talk with your local benefits staff to answer any questions you may have.

You will receive further communication on the changes in the coming months.

Team Talk

by Roberta Broeker

Last spring we kicked off our centennial year with celebrations around the state. Many of you probably enjoyed a slice of cake at your spring meeting to celebrate the March 22, 1913 creation of the Missouri Department of Transportation. Our anniversary year will wrap up in just one month. I hope this milestone year has given you an opportunity to reflect on the progress we've made over the last 100 years.

We are organizing a few activities to officially draw our centennial year to a close. I hope you'll participate in these events. They will bring a tangible and meaningful component to the close of our celebrations.

First, we will recognize the department's commitment to service and the citizens of the state by holding a statewide food drive. It's a way to thank Missourians for their trust in us and show how generous we can be. This has been a tough winter for many, and after the rush of the holidays our food banks are in need of donations. We ask that "everyone bring one" – because just one item from each employee will mean thousands of canned and nonperishable food items for Missourians in need.

Don't think you're limited to one item per person, though. I know MoDOT, and I can easily see our divisions, work groups or teams joining forces to aim for a "centennial 100" all on your own. I know you have big hearts and I know you'll do what you can. Let's use this milestone to show Missourians we not only serve their transportation needs, but we care for their physical needs too. The food drive runs now through the first week of March.

The second big activity to wrap up the centennial is the creation of time capsules. Each district and Central Office will gather items and seal them in a time capsule to share so future MoDOT staff can open it in 50 years. The time capsule will include items that demonstrate who we are today, including safety vests, state highway maps, core samples, and photos that document our current equipment and buildings. The capsules will be sealed and stored at every district and the Central Office headquarters during the first week of March.

We have a proud history at MoDOT. We lead the way in transportation, keeping Missourians safe and keeping them on the move. Please get involved in these final events and share your pride for our great MoDOT team.

Thanks for everything you do, and stay safe.

Everyone BRING ONE

March is the end of MoDOT's 100th anniversary year, and we want to give back as a sign of the service we provide the citizens of the state of Missouri.

Food banks are low after the holidays and need our help.

Now through the first week of March, employees are asked to donate to a food drive.

We challenge area teams and work groups to try to donate 100 items.

FOOD DRIVE
IN HONOR OF
MODOT'S 100TH
ANNIVERSARY YEAR

Please collect items in your work area with final collection at your district office or the Central Office by the first week of March.

Rusty James, State Employee of the Month

Rusty James, incident management coordinator for the Kansas City District and KC Scout, was chosen as the Missouri State Employee of the Month for August.



Rusty, center with Governor Nixon, attended the ceremony along with other MoDOT staff. Photo by Cathy Morrison.

Earlier this week, Rusty joined other notable state employees at a ceremony held at the Governor's Office.

Rusty had more than 30 years' experience in law enforcement before joining MoDOT in 2007. He was determined to develop a cooperative atmosphere among incident responders and ultimately redefined the meaning of partnership in the KC region with the introduction of the One Accord Agreement.

The agreement unified metro area fire, law enforcement, tow and recovery agencies, media, motorist assist and department of transportation personnel with common goals for traffic incident management. The number of partnering agencies expanded to nearly 150 from rural and metropolitan areas throughout the state.

Under his guidance, secondary crashes greatly declined – creating a safer environment for travelers, MoDOT employees and emergency responders. Rusty also provides traffic incident training to police, fire, emergency medical services and towing personnel.

It's quite an honor to be selected from the more than 50,000 state employees for providing outstanding customer service to Missouri citizens. Congratulations, Rusty!

MoDOT Reaches Thousands With Social Media



Every day MoDOT customers interact directly with us through the department's Facebook and Twitter accounts. During weather incidents, that interaction skyrockets as our friends and followers help spread safety messages far and wide.

Before for the storm hit last week, a snowman image was posted to MoDOT's statewide Facebook account to inform everyone about the no travel advisory. The snowman appeared in the news feed of nearly 130,000 people after being shared more than 2,100 times. That's about 40 times the usual number of people we reach on an average day!

The No Travel Advised message was a hot topic on Twitter, too. The link to the news release reached about 20 times more people than one of our average posts.

Comments from friends and followers are generally positive on Facebook while the mix of Twitter comments received can tend to be more critical. However with this storm, both sites carried significantly more complimentary messages. As highway conditions improved Wednesday, the tone became even more positive:

"Highway 63 is looking great. Thanks MoDOT for your equipment and perseverance."

"Another great job, MoDOT! Everyone's hard work is very much appreciated."

"Thanks for being out in the dark and the cold! You guys are appreciated!"

"You all do a great job. I drive a truck in several states and you all are the best!"

Want to follow MoDOT social media accounts? Visit www.modot.org and click the Facebook and Twitter icons at the top of the page. Like or Follow to get our messages in your feed.

Fatality Update

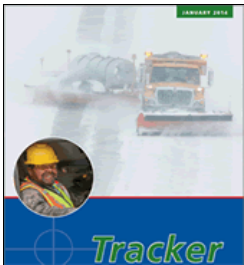


What's Happening



Chat With the Chief

Remember to check out Chief Engineer Ed Hassinger's blog post and see Ed's recent post - [Pride and Partnership Make Great Things Happen - Chat with the Chief.](#)



Tracker Available

The fourth quarter Tracker is posted on the web. The statewide Tracker review meeting will be held Feb. 19. You can view the Tracker on the website - <http://www.modot.org/about/Tracker.htm>.

This quarter's Tracker Focal Point, on the topic of customer service, will also be discussed at the meeting. The Focal Point will be posted to sharepoint on Friday - <http://sharepoint/Tracker/SitePages/TrackerFocalPoint.aspx> (*link works for employees only*).



MoDOT Now – Keeping Employees Connected

MoDOT Now launched earlier this month. This new communication tool reaches employees each work day with timely information. You can read daily news updates and watch transportation videos from your smart phone, tablet or desktop. The app is available for Apple and Android devices. Make sure you're connected and get MoDOT Now!

Click on the link to see Chief Ed Hassinger give a demonstration on this new way to communicate - [MoDOT Now.](#)



Employee Survey Focus Group

A group of Southeast District employees discuss MoDOT value statements with Phillips & Associates Vice President David Dickey (standing) and President George Phillips seated. The session was one of five focus groups being conducted during February to help shape questions for the next MoDOT employee survey. The survey is on track to be in employees hands by the middle of March. **Photo by Marissa Van Robey-Robertson.**

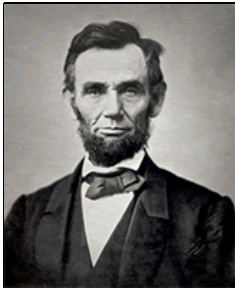


Retirement Information

FYI, an informational retirement brochure provided by MPERS, is available on their website. The brochure offers information on MoDOT and the Missouri State Highway Patrol's retirement system.

Some of the information in the brochure includes: how the state system is funded, benefits formulas, plans an eligibility, investment performance and more.

Check out this publication at [MPERS FYI.](#)



I Wonder...

Did you ever wonder why we recognize President Lincoln's birthday as a state holiday? Here's what MoDOT's librarian Renee McHenry discovered.

Establishing Lincoln's birthday as a state holiday on Feb. 12 started with a petition from the Daughters of the American Revolution, Kansas City Chapter, on Jan. 15, 1915 - [Petition](#). The law was approved on March 22, 1915 - [Law](#).

The first Lincoln Day was recognized on Feb. 12, 1916, and has continued to be recognized each year.

Remember, the MoDOT Library is a great resource to help employees with all your research needs.

Contact: Renee McHenry - 573-522-1948 or Renee.McHenry@modot.mo.gov.

February Service Anniversaries

40 Years

15 Years Continued

5 Years

Gary H. Owens – NW

30 Years

Alan L. Trampe - CD
John O. Hayes - CD
James R. Susnic – SL

25 Years

Andrew S. Thompson - NE
Kevin L. Ross - NE
Brian Keith Goodall - KC
Johnny Deon Grigsby - KC
Randy Scott Morris – SW

20 Years

Michael D. Powell - NW
Kristin E. Buczek - NW
Darin Lee Biegel - NE
Jon Gerard Voss - KC
Jason T. Lackman - CD
Ronald E. Plaster - SW
Larry E. Scheperle - CO
Jacqueline S. Rogers – CO

15 Years

Charles A. Buckles - NW
James Everett Gottman - NE
Danny W. Perry - NE
Jason I. Walton - NE
Helen Christie Madison - KC

Timothy Karl Taylor - SW
Steven R. Reedy - SW
Marsha D. Tarrant - SW
Tommy L. Nunn - SW
Marvin Moore Morris - SW
Paul E. Hilchen - CO
Normalee Agnes Schulte – CO

10 Years

Matthew K. Johnson - NW
Scott Lee Wasson - NE
William Richard Meyers - NE
Craig Thomas Skorseth - KC
Corey Michael Hansen - KC
Raymond E. Arbogast - CD
Betherny J. Williams - SL
Michael E. Blattner - SL
Matthew Franklin Keim - SL
Nora Leilani Stewart - SW
Kevin William Cook - SW
Brandon Wayne Henson - SW
Kelly Lee Shipman - SW
Edward A. Graham - SE
Michael L. Terrett - SE
Nicholas D. Richmond - SE
Charles W. Carter - SE
Thomas Clay White - SE
Ray Wood - CO
Ashley D. Burnett – CO

Adam W. Karney - NW
Curtis Edwin Vance - NW
George B. Duncan - KC
Charles Eugene Street - KC
Otis William Burnett - KC
Virak I. Um - KC
David B. Winship - KC
Carl D. Mankey - CD
Larry Dean Johnson - CD
Richard A. Gentry - SL
Lawrence A. Joedicke - SL
Robert Sanders - SL
Daniel A. Dupree - SL
Cesar A. Irizarry - SW
John Curtis Day - SW
Rodger D. Romine - SE
Brian L. Sefton - CO
Trevor L. Libbert - CO
Christopher Aaron Hubbard - CO
Mathew S. Markl - CO

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Comments & Suggestions

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Central Office

Employees Recognized for Performance and Leadership



MoDOT and Federal Highway Administration employees were recognized during the Senior Management Team meeting for the great job they did leading the department in spending almost all of the funds received from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Recognized Employees (from left to right): Kenny Voss – MoDOT, Sandy Moeller – FHWA, Jay Bestgen – MoDOT, Dawn Perkins – FHWA, Todd Grosvenor – MoDOT, Doug Hood – MoDOT, not pictured David Morris – FHWA.

February Safety Tips Preventing Winter Slips, Trips and Falls

Slips, trips and falls are an alarming issue when it comes to workplace injuries. They account for approximately 15 to 20 percent of all workers’ compensation costs. Now is the time to ensure precautions are taken to minimize the risk of slips, trips and falls.

How it Happens

A fall occurs when you lose your balance or your footing. In short, your center of gravity is displaced and there is nowhere to go but down. You may be thrown off balance by a slip (on a slick sidewalk, for example) or by a trip (by an obstacle in your path), but once you lose your footing and support, a fall is inevitable.

Keep it from Happening

Although these incidents occur all too often, the truth is, most can be prevented. All it takes is learning to recognize the hazards and taking steps to eliminate them.

- Watch out for wet, slippery surfaces. In winter months, wet and slippery surfaces



indoors are especially common. Clean these areas immediately.

Click above for the video library to view the slips, trips and falls prevention video.

- Make sure walk areas outdoors are treated with ice melt and cleared as soon as possible.
- Clear ice and snow off the steps of trucks and equipment, and always use three points of contact when entering and exiting the vehicle.
- Keep work areas well lighted and clean. Always turn on the lights before entering a dark room.
- Clutter is another common hazard. Tools, boxes, boards and cords left lying around can cause a bad fall. So keep work areas, especially storage rooms, walkways and stairs free of clutter.
- Use ladders safely. Be sure you have the right ladder for the job.
- Never use chairs, stools or other improvised climbing equipment in place of an appropriate ladder.

If it Happens

Nobody wants to slip, trip or fall. However, it can happen and there are better ways to fall than others. If you fall, try the following:

- Tuck in your chin and attempt to protect your head with your arms. It is better to land on your arms than on your head.
- While falling, twist or roll your body to the side. It is better to fall on your buttocks and side than to fall on your back.
- Keep your wrists, elbows and knees bent. Do not try to break the fall with your hands or elbows.

So, take the proper precautions and always warn fellow employees of possible hazards. Also, watch the safety video on winter slips, trips and falls on the Intranet at <http://wwwi/intranet/SafetyVideos.htm> (link works for employees only).

Central Office Happenings



CPR Training Opportunities

Four classes for CPR and first aid training are scheduled for March.

March 13 and 14

8 a.m. – 11 a.m. & 12 p.m. – 3 p.m. (each day)
Conference Room 100
105 W Capitol Ave.

To register for a class, email Joanie Prenger - Joanie.Prenger@modot.mo.gov



State Employee Blood Drive

Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming Opportunities

Further details will be forthcoming.
March 18, 19, 21 and 25.

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Love and Snow Fights

For this Valentine's Day edition of Connections, we thought it only fitting to feature a story about love, marriage and what it means to be married to a MoDOT employee.

On Jan. 31, 2014, Bethany Senior Maintenance Worker Brian "Cappy" O'Neal brought his bride Jennifer to the District Office with quite a story to tell. Brian went to work Thursday, plowed snow overnight, got off work Friday morning, picked up his bride, drove to St. Joseph, and got married.

Brian's mother served as one of their witnesses, but, not knowing they needed two, they had to scramble. They found a man waiting in the hallway of the courthouse who agreed to be their witness. After the ceremony, some folks came looking for their witness. He was evidently waiting to go to court and had missed his scheduled appearance. Brian stepped in to vouch for the man and where he'd been, letting the authorities know the man had been helping them out. Brian said, "He was a witness for me, so I had to be a witness for him."

The honeymoon will have to wait though, as Brian was headed back to Bethany to plow snow again that evening. Jennifer is okay with that. She said it's something you have to get used to being married to a MoDOT man.



Brian and Jennifer O'Neal on their wedding day. The happy couple stopped by the district office to share their good news before Brian had to jump back in a snow plow and help with the ongoing snow fight.

Active Shooter Training

No one thinks it will happen to them, but if you do find yourself in an active shooter situation, it's better to be prepared. Sgt. Sheldon Lyon of the Missouri State Highway Patrol presented to a group of district office employees on Monday, Feb. 10, giving tips about what to do in an active shooter situation.

From his own experience, Sgt. Lyon shared that being unprepared can be very dangerous, even if you're not near the shooter. Sgt. Lyon was one of the first four troopers to arrive on the scene of an active shooting at Conception Abbey in Northwest Missouri several years ago. A man came into the abbey, killed two priests and wounded two others before taking his own life in the abbey's basilica.

While other troopers went deeper into the abbey to find the gunman, Sgt. Lyon was stationed at a point where several hallways converged. At one point, he saw a figure coming towards him through a frosted glass door. Not knowing if it was the gunman or not, as the man stepped through the door, Sgt. Lyon raised his shotgun and asked the man to identify himself. The man, dressed in a t-shirt and gym shorts, didn't respond. Sgt. Lyon again asked the man to identify himself. Again, the man stared blankly past him. Finally, Sgt. Lyon yelled again, asking the man to identify himself and

the man responded that he was one of the priests. Sgt. Lyon was able to direct the priest towards the exit and gathering point that law enforcement had set up, but had the man not identified himself, he could have been mistaken for the shooter.

The shock the priest was in could have come from being unprepared. If you have a plan, it's more likely that your preparation and training will kick in and you'll be able to react to the situation. First, Sgt. Lyon said, figure out what you're going to do. Are you able to get out? Will you have to hide out? Or, as a last resort, will you have take out the shooter? Sgt. Lyon then walked the training group through the steps to take on each of those scenarios and what to do once you're outside the danger zone.

Hopefully, none of us will ever find ourselves faced with an active shooter situation, but if you are, remain calm and follow the plan you and your family or colleagues have in place. If you'd like to set up active shooter training for your colleagues, contact your local law enforcement or Highway Patrol.



Sgt. Sheldon Lyon of Troop H of the Missouri State Highway Patrol shared his experiences in an active shooter situation with employees at the Northwest District office.



Sgt. Lyon gave the employees tips on what to do if they ever find themselves in an active shooter situation. He included everything from making a plan ahead of time to finding a hiding place to what to do once you're outside the situation.

Missouri: The Snow-Me State

With snow fight after snow fight this winter, the local St. Joseph radio station called us the Snow-Me State. While it's been challenging in the wind and bitter cold, our crews keep at it. We received many thank you messages on social media, by phone and by email. Here are a couple:

- I want to express my gratitude for the hard work that the road crews have done in the past few days. After I struggled to get down my driveway to the road, I was THRILLED to find the roads all cleared! The roads looked like it hadn't even snowed, they were so clear. Thank you so much. You make it possible for me to get to work each day, but most importantly make it possible for me to get back home again.
- I want to give a high compliment (to your road crews). I left my house in Sedalia at 9 a.m. on my way to Village of Country Club. I took 50 hwy, 435, and 29. My normal 2 hour and 30 minute commute was a 4 hour commute today but . . . You guys should be proud of yourselves, I know it was a lot of work to get those highways in great condition today. Thanks for making my travels safer!

We'd like to add ours, too. **Thank you** for all you do!



This snow plow at the Cameron maintenance building is lit up and ready for some night plowing on the evening of Feb. 6.



Even with the harsh conditions reducing visibility, the truck and plow are very visible during night operations.



With an air temperature of seven degrees and a road temperature of five degrees, crews were fighting the snow, wind and brutal cold in the darkness overnight on Feb. 6, 2014.



Daylight made it a bit easier to see as snowfight operations continued in Clinton County on Saturday, Feb. 1.

For more info

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Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

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MoDOT Employee Deploys With Twin

Reprinted from the online article - <http://www.military.com/daily-news/2014/01/27/twins-deploy-together-four-times.html>

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan – While many siblings have deployed together over the course of this war on terrorism, there are not many that have deployed together on four separate occasions.

The Wilkerson twins, Eric and Jason, both 88Ms, or Heavy Equipment Operators, from Forward Support Company 365th Engineer Battalion. Staff Sgts. Wilkerson have deployed together three separate times to Iraq and once to Afghanistan.

The first time, from 2004 to 2005 was to Taji, Iraq (Camp Cook) as gun truck drivers, the second and third, (2008 to 2009 and 2010 to 2011) to Kuwait with missions in Iraq. This first time to Afghanistan (2013 to 2014), they are both based at Bagram Air Base. During their second tour, Eric drove Line Hauls in Heavy Equipment Convoys and Jason drove gun trucks. During the third deployment both were convoy commanders conducting line hauls.

They are originally from Paris, Missouri, a small town in the north east corner of the state. When asked how it felt to deploy together so many times, Jason replied:

“It doesn’t bother us. We’ve been in the military with the same group of Soldiers for many years. We’ve stayed together and learned many things together, so we like it.” They have both been in the Army for 14 years and plan on staying in for at least 20 years. They are currently assigned as M916s drivers. “You call, we haul,” said Eric. Back in the states,



Jason Wilkerson and his twin brother, Eric, are currently serving in the U.S. Army and deployed to Afghanistan.

Jason works in maintenance at MoDOT and part time at a family quarry. He is also going to school for an Associate’s Degree in Industrial Maintenance from Moberly Area Community College in Moberly, MO. His hobbies include going to church, Ford Mustangs, trucks and running.

Eric has an internship at the 3M Factory in maintenance and is also taking night classes at MACC in Industrial Maintenance for his Associate’s Degree. His hobbies include building, Mustangs, and pickups.

Eric and Jason would like to give a shout out to their friends and family back home, “Thank you for your support. It has been a great help to the both of us. We look forward to getting home and seeing everyone again.”

We  our military!

Jason’s email is Jason.Lee.Wilkerson@us.army.mil if any MoDOT employee would like to email him. He would probably LOVE to see all the snow pictures!

Around the District



Mike Haggerty, Hannibal maintenance, is pictured mixing chemicals in preparation for the most recent snow storm. Or maybe it was the one before that? Or this weekend? They are all running together by now...thanks to EVERYONE who has helped keep our customers safe and informed!



Canton crews assisting in Marion County during the storm which included rain, ice, snow, freezing drizzle, then more snow. Canton employees Ray Weathers is in grader and Arron Burbridge is in the belly-plow truck.

Stuck in Atlanta, GA



The top picture may look like our MoDOT crews out plowing recently. However, this is actually on U.S. 400 just north of Atlanta, GA during their “apocalypse” snow storm.

Marisa Ellison, customer relations manager, had the misfortune of being stuck near Atlanta an extra two days due to the two inches of snow.

“This picture was taken the day after the snow, and I was so glad to see a familiar sight,” she said. Unfortunately, the state deployed just a little too late, causing a lot of grief for travelers. “And these were the only plows I saw that day,” she added.



Look closely at the bottom picture. What looks like a lot of traffic moving on the other side of the highway is actually hundreds of stalled cars left overnight on U.S. 400 near Atlanta.

“I have never seen anything like it,” Marisa remarked.

For more info

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Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

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Kansas City District

Maintenance Worker Rescues Motorist from Stranded Car

On Feb. 2, while fighting snow along Route F near Chilhowee, MoDOT employee Mike Walsh found himself in a situation that was nothing short of "beyond the normal call of duty."

Mike's dump truck had become stuck, and he was flagging traffic around him on the icy road while awaiting a vehicle recovery crew. He waved a vehicle by, then saw it slide off the road and overturn. Mike called 911, then went to check on the driver.

The young woman, Grace Brandon, was able to get out of the car with Mike's help, but was in and out of consciousness. She was injured and bleeding from her head. Mike helped her to the safety of his dump truck, tucking his own coat around her to ward against sub-zero wind chills. He kept her awake until emergency personnel arrived. Due to his quick-thinking efforts, she is now safely recovering from a traumatic brain injury.



"You have no idea how grateful I am that you were put in that place at that time, and that you helped me out. I have been released from the hospital with a traumatic brain injury and some brain swelling, but I do realize how much worse it could have been had he (Mike) not been there since I did not even know where I was or what happened," wrote Grace. "So thank you MODOT, thank you to the man who saved my life. You guys are truly exceptional in my eyes."

This event is made all the more remarkable by the fact Mike has a partial prosthetic leg, making it far more difficult for him to physically assist someone in snow and ice as he did. Mike's actions epitomize the department's highest values to keep our customers and ourselves safe.

"I only hope that if I were in that situation, someone would do the same for me," Mike said.

Governor Thanks MoDOT for Snow Fighting Efforts

Governor Nixon toured the Kansas city maintenance facility recently and spoke with MoDOT employees about their work during the recent storm. He also recognized the work of the Missouri State Highway Patrol and the well-established coordination between the two agencies.

"I wanted to take this opportunity to thank the hard-working Missourians of MoDOT and the Highway Patrol for the outstanding work they've already done this winter and get an update on their preparations for what is still ahead," Gov. Nixon said.



Mentoring the Next Generation of Engineers

Transportation Project Designer Regina Shipley recently represented MoDOT at the Girls in Engineering event hosted by Liberty North High School. The event was created to give students the opportunity to preview future career opportunities. More than 50 students attended the event that allowed them to meet with 14 women working in engineering fields.

"It was an event to entice freshman and sophomore girls to think about engineering so they could start taking those type of classes while they still had time in High School. They had a wide variety of engineers from local businesses in the KC area," said Shipley. "I was able to have a lot of one-on-one time with the girls and answer their questions that may not have been asked in a speaker type set up. I had questions from 'Why did you choose engineering?' to 'Do I have to be really good at math and science?' to 'Shoulders need to be added to Route A'. It was a good experience!"



Read [more about the event here](#).

MoDOT also teamed with HNTB and the PrepKC Program to provide students a perspective of how they made a difference as an engineer. MoDOT presented an overview of the life cycle of a project, and how an engineer contributes along the way. Students also had a chance to get some hands on experience with a set of plans, materials used in constructing road and bridge projects, survey equipment, and bridge inspection activities. Also included in the program, students had a chance to learn more about architecture, careers in CAD, and to work on some interviewing skills.



On January 23rd, about 60 students participated from Grandview, and Allen Village high schools. Juniors and seniors were selected based on their academic standing, and career interests in engineering and architecture. MoDOT will participate in this program again in February with Schlagle, and Harmon high schools.

MoDOT employees Joshua Scott, Erin Ralovo, Jacob Wilson, Rick Wyrick, Brandon Cracraft, Mike Warren, and Dave Brown helped with the day's activities.

Learn [more about PrepKC online](#).

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Engelbrecht Places in Stan Musial 6K Bridge Run

District Planning Manager Steve Engelbrecht finished second in his age category, fifth in the masters division and 35th overall in the Stan Musial Veterans Memorial Bridge Run on Feb. 8 in St. Louis.

Engelbrecht braved temperatures in the 20s and recorded a time of 24:24 in the 3.73-mile race. The District Planning Manager ran with 2,911 runners as a part of the celebration for the opening of the Stan Musial Veterans Memorial Bridge.

Included in the pack of runners was Engelbrecht's daughter, Alicia, who placed fifth in the female 14 & Under age group with a time of 31:13. She finished 385th overall and 83rd among 1,681 females in the race.



Central District Planning Manager Steve Engelbrecht (right) poses with Stan Musial's daughter, Jeanne Edmonds, after the Stan Musial Veterans Memorial Bridge Run on Feb. 8 in St. Louis.

Final Span of the Old Hurricane Deck Bridge Goes Up in Smoke at the Lake

The third and final span of the grand old Hurricane Deck Bridge hit the water on Jan. 30 after a demolition blast near Sunrise Beach at the Lake of the Ozarks. Here is a three-blast compilation video of all three Hurricane Deck demolitions for your enjoyment. Press play and marvel at all three three epic explosions and splashdowns:



For a collection of everything you might want to know about the new Hurricane Deck Bridge and the demolition of the old bridge (including time-lapse videos of the construction and demolition, as well as photos and facts) you can visit our new Hurricane Deck Bridge page: http://www.modot.org/central/major_projects/Hurricane_Deck.htm.

District's New Snowblower on Duty

The Central District's new snowblower is now on duty! This snowblower will be used to remove snow piles from roadsides, bridges and ramps, where larger pieces of equipment might not be able to tread. Watch this video of a test run to see how it chomps through a pile of snow:



Around the District



We offer well wishes to Transportation Project Designer Laurie Wyrick on her retirement after 29 years of service! In this photo she shows off a plaque celebrating her years of service and hard work, while posing with Assistant District Engineer Travis Koestner. Laurie, we wish you much happiness in your retirement!

For more info

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Missouri, Illinois Celebrate Opening of Stan Musial Veterans Memorial Bridge

by Andrew Gates

More than 10,000 people from two states got their one and only chance to view the Stan Musial Veterans Memorial Bridge the day before it opened to traffic.

On Feb. 8, Missouri and Illinois hosted a public event on the region's newest Mississippi River bridge before opening it to traffic the next day.

"It was just an amazing day for the region. We had a lot of people from all over the state – and even other states – come out and walk on this new iconic landmark for the St. Louis region," said Randy Hitt, project director.

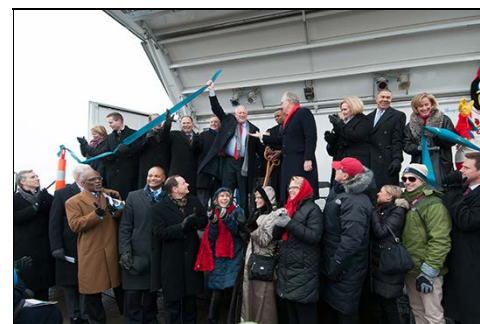
The morning started with a recreational ride, hosted by Trailnet, a local biking organization. Their recreational ride crossed several of the bridges between Missouri and Illinois and made extensive use of the Riverfront Trail.



The Budweiser Clydesdales were among the first vehicles crossing the new Stan Musial Veterans Memorial Bridge during a ceremonial first crossing on Saturday, Feb. 8.

As part of the day's festivities, Operation Food Search, a local food pantry, conducted a food drive. They collected more than 600 pounds of food -- enough food to feed 194 people for a day. The Stan Musial Veterans Memorial Bridge officially opened to traffic on Sunday, Feb. 9. The eastbound lanes opened at about 10 a.m. and the westbound lanes opened at about noon.

"This is a great day for the region – people who use the Poplar Street Bridge in St. Louis now have another option. This project gives us some room to work on the PSB to



The Musial family, Missouri Highway and Transportation Commissioners, state elected officials and Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx, upper center, cut the ribbon official opening the Stan Musial Veterans Memorial Bridge on Saturday, February 8, 2014.

Next, nearly 3,500 runners participated in a six kilometer race across the bridge and back. The run was hosted by Big River Running. They were followed by a cycling time trial event, sponsored by Big Shark.

Then, the new bridge opened to the public, and somewhat like the Mississippi River, people poured onto the bridge from the Illinois and Missouri side. U.S. Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx, Missouri Governor Jay Nixon and Illinois Governor Pat Quinn cut the ribbon for the new bridge around 3 p.m.

After that, local veterans, led by the U.S. Transportation Command's multi-service color guard and the Budweiser Clydesdales, participated in a ceremonial first crossing of the new bridge.



update the ramps. That ramp work will significantly improve the flow of traffic between Illinois and Missouri,” said Hitt.

On Feb.7, Illinois and Missouri hosted two events on the bridge. The first named the Missouri Approach after Andy Gammon, a carpenter who lost his life while working on the bridge. The second brought local elected officials, business leaders and donors out to turn on the bridge’s aesthetic lighting.

Tracy, Ethan and Emma Gammon, right, unveil the sign naming the Missouri Approach as the “Andy Gammon Memorial Highway.” Andy Gammon was a carpenter who lost his life while working on the Stan Musial Veterans Memorial Bridge.

St. Louis Maintenance Crew puts ‘Final Touches’ on New Bridge

by Shaunda White

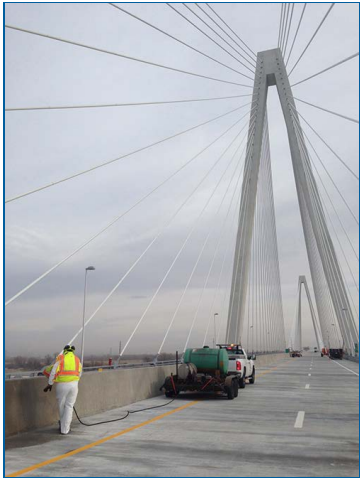
Efforts by St. Louis maintenance crews helped preserve the longevity of the concrete driving surface on the new Stan Musial Veterans Memorial Bridge. The crews worked on the bridge from morning until midnight on Jan. 29. They applied concrete sealant to the bridge and barriers to protect them from surface damage and prevent the absorption of chemicals and water.

Normally, concrete sealing is a job that is completed by the contractor. However, after consideration of the budget, the project team decided to purchase the materials through the contract and partner with maintenance for labor.

MoDOT maintenance crews applied 2,000 gallons of silane sealer to the bridge. Since the bridge was awarded in 2009, MoDOT specifications have changed. Linseed oil, which only lasts 30 days, was the concrete sealer MoDOT used in the past.

“This was a great opportunity. Without traffic on the bridge, our maintenance crews were able to seal the bridge twice as fast with minimum workers. I really appreciate the contract team taking maintenance into consideration,” said Mark Croarkin, district bridge engineer.

Additional sealing for the bridge will not be needed again for seven to eight years.



St. Louis District Hosts First Work Zone Awareness 5K

by Shaunda White

The St. Louis Fit 4 Life team will host its first Work Zone Awareness 5K Walk/Run in Chesterfield, MO on April 12, 2014. The Fit 4 Life team’s goals for this event are to promote health fitness, safety and to honor the workers who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

Employees can learn how to train and prepare for the runs by attending the Couch Potato-to-5K Lunch & Learn, Wednesday February 19 at 11:30 a.m. in the St. Louis district office.

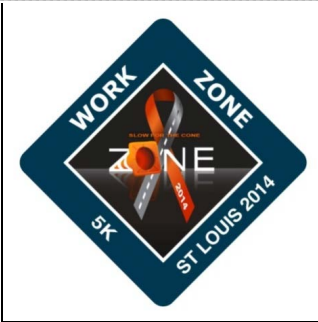
This family friendly walk/run event is open to MoDOT employees, their families/friends and the public. MoDOT has scheduled a couple of events depending on the desire of the runner. In addition to the 5K, there will be a 1 Mile Family Fun Run/Walk.

Both races begin at 8 a.m. at the Transportation Management Center located at 14301 South Outer Forty in Chesterfield.

All participants will receive a race T-shirt and medal. Awards will be presented to male and female overall winners, and age category winners.

It is not too late to register. Early Bird registration closes March 28 and all events increase \$5 after that date.

5K Run - \$15	1 M Walk - \$15
Youth 5K - \$10	Youth 1 M - \$10



Online registration is available through the following link:
<http://tinyurl.com/MoDotWorkone5K>

Volunteer to help at: [workzone5K volunteer](#)

For more information regarding this event, please contact Tom Blair at 314.453.1803.

For more info

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Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

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Southwest District

SW District at Work



THANK YOU -- Gov. Jay Nixon shakes hands with Springfield Senior Maintenance Worker Debbie Rodriguez during a visit to thank MoDOT crews for keeping roads cleared during the harsh winter. He also reassured Missourians the state remains prepared to clear roads. (Photo/David Mitchell)



BE PREPARED -- Joplin Maintenance Workers Richard Kautz (left) and Nick Calton (right) along with Joplin Senior Maintenance Worker Dale Pliler (driver) take advantage of the lull between snow storms to clean and check a snow plow to make sure it's ready for the next winter storm. (Photo/David Mitchell)

Butler Maintenance Worker Ben Cameron Honored for Helping Woman in Distress

by Angela Eden

The actions of Butler Senior Maintenance Worker Ben Cameron, who came to the aid of an injured woman along I-49 on a snowy December night, were recognized with a Meritorious Safety Award and Certificate of Appreciation. Cameron received the honor at the Southwest District Management Team meeting held in late January in Monett.

Cameron said he was in the right place at the right time when he noticed a woman in distress along I-49 south of Archie in Bates County around midnight on December 8. He was plowing snow and his headlights picked up a human form.

"I caught a glimpse of her out of the corner of my eye," he said. "She was down at the bottom of a steep ditch. She was waving her arms."

Cameron stopped his truck on the shoulder and climbed down the embankment to help the woman up the hill. She was hysterical and crying. So, Cameron got her into the cab of his truck and began talking to her.

"I just tried to calm her down," he said. "I asked her what her name was



Butler Senior Maintenance Worker Ben Cameron (Photo/Travis Fischer)

and where she was from.”

He discovered that she had a broken leg and was bleeding from the leg wound. He called for an ambulance and the Highway Patrol. Cameron had some towels and his safety vest in the truck which he gave to the woman to help control the bleeding.

Cameron said there was no vehicle around, so she hadn’t been involved in a crash. She wouldn’t say how she came to be at the bottom of the ditch or why she was walking along I-49.

District Safety and Health Manager Gary McLarry recommended Cameron for the MoDOT safety award.

He says Cameron’s actions went above and beyond.

“It shows how caring our MoDOT employees are,” he said.

Cameron received his first aid training in 2012. McLarry said it paid off.

“Hypothermia could have set in,” he said. Cameron knew what to do to help the woman and he did it, McLarry said.

Southwest District, APAC-Missouri Win National Award for Paving Excellence

by David Mitchell

An I-44 resurfacing project near Joplin that was completed in 2012 is the recipient of a prestigious national award recognizing asphalt paving excellence.

The National Asphalt Pavement Association (NAPA) recognized MoDOT and the Springfield-based APAC-Missouri with the 2013 Sheldon G. Hayes Award.

“It’s a huge deal,” Southwest District Construction and Materials Engineer Steve Campbell said. “This award has never been given for a Missouri project before.”

The 15.3 mile project included milling the existing pavement, paving both lanes and the ramps and resurfacing the highway’s shoulders. The work was done at night to lessen the impact on traffic using the interstate.

Greg Chapman, the Resident Engineer for Joplin at the time of the project, said APAC-Missouri was good to work with.

“Communication on the job was very good,” Chapman said. “If a problem came up, (APAC) addressed it and got it taken care of quickly.”

In a NAPA news release, APAC-Missouri branch manager Mike Eshleman said, “We strive for quality on every project, but it takes total commitment from the crew, quality control, MoDOT, and all other parties involved to end up with a quality project of this nature.”

A major component of the project was the use of sustainable paving techniques. Crews used reclaimed asphalt pavement (RAP) and recycled asphalt shingles in their binder mix. Some of the recycled material not used for the I-44 pavement was used on other MoDOT projects.

“Ninety-nine percent of what we lay will have some component of recycled material,” Campbell said. “It’s a substantial reason we’ve been able to keep our asphalt costs down.”

The project ended up with a very smooth surface, Chapman said. He cited results of smoothness tests run on the newly laid pavement as proof.

“The average results for the entire project were really outstanding,” he said.

Chapman added APAC-Missouri received a 105 percent bonus because of the smoothness of the surface.

According to NAPA, the Sheldon G. Hayes Award winner and finalists are determined through a two-year evaluation process.

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Southeast District

SE District Holds Public Meetings to Discuss Final Major Projects

MoDOT's Southeast District is gearing up for another construction season and holding public meetings to discuss upcoming projects, such as Route 412 in Kennett, the proposed Scott City interchange and Route 51 in Bollinger County. Not only are area motorists looking forward to these improvements, but these projects also mark some of the last major projects that will be completed in Southeast Missouri.

Due to uncertainty about future federal funding, declining fuel tax proceeds and increasing costs of doing business, the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission (MHTC) voted to stop adding new projects to the five-year construction budget and to suspend the Cost-Share Program during its Jan. 8 meeting.

Thankfully for area residents, funding was already secured for improvements to Route 412 in Kennett, the proposed Scott City interchange and Route 51 in Bollinger County, and the projects were included in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program prior to Jan. 8.

"Unfortunately, we cannot continue to pursue additional major projects at this time, since this would only increase our maintenance responsibility in the future," said Southeast District Engineer Mark Shelton.

Shelton explained MoDOT forecasts its annual construction program - which just a few years ago was \$1.3 billion - will be just over \$700 million in 2015, before dropping to \$325 million per year from 2017 through 2019.

"Keeping our statewide system of roads and bridges in the condition it is today costs \$485 million," he said. "With the current funding levels, it seems obvious that our system will eventually begin to deteriorate if funding levels do not change."

Shelton added there is also a state problem with transportation funding.

"In 2020, we won't have enough state revenue to be able to match federal funds. That means those unmatched dollars will be directed to other states," he said.

Route 412 in Kennett

The public meeting to discuss improvements to Route 412 in Kennett will be held from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 20. The meeting will be held at South Elementary, located at 920 Kennett St. in Kennett.

The proposed improvements include five-laning Route 412 from Route 84 to Route V V, constructing a roundabout at Route V V and four-laning from Route V V to Routes O and Y.

"Roundabouts have multiple benefits, such as improving safety and helping traffic flow more smoothly," said Project Manager Eric Krapf. "This configuration will work well at the intersection of Route 412 and Route V V."

He explained that roundabouts have fewer conflict points, or spots where vehicles could collide, than signalized



The proposed Route 412 project includes five-laning Route 412 from Route 84 to Route V V, constructing a roundabout at Route V V and four-laning from Route V V to Routes O and Y. Click the image above to view the public meeting handout.

intersections. The reduced number of conflict points, combined with slower speeds and calmer traffic, has been found to reduce the number of severe crashes.

The project is expected to be let in late fall 2014, with construction expected to begin in spring 2015.

For more information, please attend the online meeting available at www.modot.org/southeast/news_and_information/public_meetings/Route412_Kennett_Feb2014.htm.

Scott City Interchange



Click the image above the view the proposed Scott City interchange.

The public meeting to discuss construction of an interchange south of Scott City will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 25. The meeting will be held at the City Hall in Scott City, located at 215 Chester Ave.

The proposed interchange would provide access to south Scott City, as well as a connection from Interstate 55 to Kelso. Additionally, the project would relieve congestion at the Route 61/K/M/I-55 interchange.

The proposed project includes constructing a new roadway from Route 61 at Kelso to the existing Route PP overpass bridge. Approximately 7,500 feet of new outer road east of Interstate 55 will be needed to connect to County Road 311, as well as improvements to the remaining portion of County Road 311 to Scott City. The Route PP bridge would be widened to accommodate turning movements for the new interchange.

The project is currently in the location and design approval phase. Right-of-way acquisition is expected to occur in 2015 through 2016, with the project let in early 2017.

For more information, please attend the online meeting available at www.modot.org/southeast/news_and_information/public_meetings/ScottCityInterchange_Feb2014.htm.

Route 51 in Bollinger County

The public meeting to discuss improvements to Route 51 in Bollinger County will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 4. The meeting will be held at MoDOT’s Maintenance Shed in Patton, Mo., located at Route 1 Box 2490.

The project will include replacing the Route 51 bridge over Little Whitewater River on a new alignment in an effort to improve safety. In addition, the proposed structure will be six feet wider than the existing bridge.

Right-of-way acquisition will take place in late spring 2014 or early summer 2014. The project is expected to be let in November 2014, with construction underway in 2015. The project is expected to be completed in fall 2015.

To view more upcoming projects in the Southeast District, please [click here](#).

KFVS12's Snow Plow Ride-Alongs



During the Southeast District’s recent bout of winter weather, KFVS12’s Holly Brantley wanted to get a new perspective of how MoDOT’s snow plow drivers deal with a storm.

Holly completed her first ride-along as crews were pre-treating the routes. Once the storm struck, Holly hit the road again with our crews to see more of the action.

Thanks to Maintenance Superintendent Lawrence Schumer and Maintenance Crew Leader Tom Brickhaus for showing Holly all the hard work that goes into fighting a winter storm! Click on these links to see the [pretreating interview](#) and [snow plow ride-along](#)!

Customers Thank Maintenance Crews

This winter has certainly presented a number of challenges from persistent storms to extremely cold temperatures. Southeast District crews have certainly risen to the challenges, and their hard work has not gone unnoticed.

As with prior storms, customers have taken time to write in on the Southeast District’s Facebook page, fill out the Contact

Us form on the website and call our Customer Service Department.

To view the comments, please [click here](#).

For more info

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Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

To view or print other pages, click on the links below:

